(c) whether the said instructions have been issued to help the present suppliers to keep the new suppliers out of race;

(d) whether Government Propose to get the matter investigated to ensure that the instructions are not issued with malafide intentions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The instructions to stop supplies/manufacture of HDGC Wire with Silver Brazed Joints have been issued with a view to improve reliability of HDGC Wire and to prevent disruption of train movement due to failure of Joints in silver brazed HDGC wire.

Construction of new bridge at Patna and doubling of Mokama bridge

3011. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that proposals for construction of a new bridge at Patna and laying of double rail line on Mokama Railway Bridge were approved in 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether construction work has started thereon and if not, the reasons therefore and by when these are proposed to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However, construction of Ganga bridge at Patna with linking lines between Patna and Hazipur has been included in the Budget, 1997-98 and construction work would be started after necessary clearances have been obtained.

Gauge conversion of Katihar-Purnea and Manshi-Forbesganj rail line

3012. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals for Broad Gauge rail line between Katihar and Purnea and Manshi to Forbesganj, were approved in 1989;

(b) if so, whether the construction work on these projects has since been taken up; and

(c) if so, when, and if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Work has already been started between Mansi and Saharsa as the first phase of conversion of the line from Mansi to Forbesganj. The scope of this project is being increased from Forbesganj to Katihar which includes Purnea-Katihar. Work on the remaining section would be taken up in the coming years.

भोपाल के लिए एक तेज रेलगाड़ी शुरू करना

3013. **श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्ता:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के जन प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा भोपाल और नई दिल्ली के बीच एक तेज रेलगाड़ी की लगातार मांग की जाती रही है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि राज्य की राजधानी भोपाल को इस प्रकार की कोई सुविधा प्रदान नहीं की गई है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि प्रत्येक बड़े राज्य की राजधानी को यह सुविधा दी गई है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में बढ़ती हुई मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस आवश्यकता को पूरा करने पर विचार कर रही है, यदि हां, तो कब तक?